

What is claimed is:

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1. An image processing apparatus including:  
a function to place bits for describing  
information different from information of image data  
5 obtained by image processing on original image data,  
respectively in specific bit positions of pixel data at  
predetermined positions of said processed image.
2. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said pixels are dispersed at a  
10 plurality of predetermined positions on said image.
3. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said information different from  
information of said processed image data is information  
describing the contents of image processing performed  
15 on said original image data to obtain said processed  
image data.
4. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said information different from  
information of said processed image data is information  
20 describing time when said image processing is performed  
on original image data to obtain said processed image  
data.
5. An image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein said information different from

information for describing said processed image data is information describing time when said bits are placed.

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6. An image processing method comprising:

5 a first step to obtain first processed image data by performing image processing on original image data; and

10 a second step to place bits for describing information different from information of said first processed image data respectively in specific bit positions of pixel data at predetermined positions of said first processed image.

7. An image processing method according to claim 6, wherein said pixels are dispersed at a plurality of predetermined positions on said image.

15 8. An image processing method according to claim 6, wherein said information different from information of said first processed image data is information describing the contents of image processing performed on said original image data to obtain said  
20 first processed image data.

9. An image processing method according to claim 6, wherein said information different from information of said first processed image data is information describing time when said first step is

performed.

10. An image processing method according to claim 6, wherein said information different from information of said first processed image data is information describing time when said second step is performed.

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a3 11. A recording medium in which a program for a computer is stored, wherein said program is one that enables the computer to perform the following processing:

placing bits for describing information different from information of image data, said processed image data being obtained by image processing on original image data, respectively in specific bit positions of pixel data at predetermined positions of said processed image.

12. A recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said pixels are dispersed at a plurality of predetermined positions on said image.

20 13. A recording medium according to claim 11, wherein said information different from information of said processed image data is information describing the contents of image data, wherein said information is information of original image data to

14. A recording medium according to claim 11,  
wherein said information different from information of  
said processed image data is information describing  
time when said image processing is performed on  
5 original image data to obtain said processed image data.

15. A recording medium according to claim 11,  
wherein said information different from information of  
said processed image data is information describing  
time when said bits are placed.

10 16. Image data characterized by bits for  
describing information different from information of  
processed image data obtained by image processing on  
original image data, which are placed respectively in  
specific bit positions of pixel data at predetermined  
15 positions of said processed image.

17. Image data according to claim 16, wherein  
said pixels are dispersed at a plurality of  
predetermined positions on said image.

18. Image data according to claim 16, wherein  
20 said information different from information of said  
processed image data is information describing the  
contents of image processing performed on said original  
image data to obtain said processed image data.

19. Image data according to claim 16, wherein

